



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.  
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION  
1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

# Press Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Attorney General McGraw Sues Iams Funeral Home**

Attorney General Darrell McGraw filed suit today against Iams Funeral Home and its owner, John L. Iams, II, in the Circuit Court of Wetzel County. In his lawsuit, McGraw alleges that Iams misappropriated money consumers had given him to purchase preneed funeral contracts. The complaint further alleges that Iams failed to file required documentation with the Preneed Division and was operating without a business license.

This is not Mr. Iams' first encounter with the Attorney General's office. The funeral home was audited in 2001 and 2005. These audits revealed that Iams had taken consumers' money for preneed funeral contracts and placed it into the funeral home's account instead of placing it in trust accounts in the consumers' names. Iams would then use these funds to cover the operating cost of the funeral home.

After meeting with a lawyer in the Preneed Division, Iams agreed to return all the principal plus interest into each individual preneed funeral account. He also signed an Assurance of Discontinuance to comply with state law in the future.

Today's lawsuit was prompted when Iams failed to renew his Certificate of Authority and his employee's license to sell preneed. Despite several written warnings, Iams is still not licensed to sell preneed and does not have a Certificate of Authority.

McGraw's lawsuit seeks to enjoin Iams Funeral Home and John L. Iams, II from ever selling preneed funeral contracts. Moreover, McGraw is asking the Court to transfer all of Iams current preneed funeral contracts to another funeral provider.

If a consumer suspects that his or her funds have been misappropriated by Iams, please contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline, at 800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986.

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